

Abstract 1

Anticoagulant Near Patient Testing and Control

Paul Harper, Auckland City Hospital

Near-patients testing devices for monitoring oral anticoagulant therapy are approved for use in many countries. The technology varies between machines but all use a finger-prick sample and give an INR result within a few minutes. Many comparative studies have shown that the INR results from these machines give a close correlation with laboratory testing. The introduction of these machines has allowed general practitioners to take over the complete management of anticoagulant therapy with the advantage to the patient that the results are available rapidly and dosing advice can be given immediately. These devices also allow patients to perform self testing at home. Although the quality of results from these devices have improved there are still concerns about adequate quality control.

Abstract 2

Internet Based Anticoagulant Monitoring

Paul Harper, Auckland City Hospital

Warfarin is an anticoagulant drug used to manage venous thrombosis, pulmonary embolus and several heart conditions. It has proved a valuable drug but requires close monitoring to prevent overdose and bleeding. There are several elements to safe anticoagulant monitoring with accurate dose adjustment and consistent follow-up as essential. However many other procedural factors need to be in place to ensure patients are tested on time and to identify poor compliance and patients who do not attend for regular testing. All of these processes can be managed with a computerised monitoring system. Several computer programmes are available and studies have shown that computer dosing is as good as management by a clinician or other health professional. In this talk I will review computerised monitoring and propose a model to manage anticoagulant therapy using an internet based anticoagulant programme which is accessible to both general practitioners and patients performing self-testing.